

awarded to a recipient from one of the senior high schools every four years. To date, the League has provided over \$68,000 in student awards and scholarships.

Over the past 21 years the League has donated approximately \$73,500 to the Hospital for Sick Children and has supported Howard University's Sickle Cell Anemia Program. The League has also contributed to the Brigadier General West A. Hamilton Scholarship Fund of the Washington Club of Frontiers International, the United Negro College Fund, the Cardozo and Eastern High School bands and the Eastern High School Choir for travel abroad. Assistance is also provided to needy families at Thanksgiving and Christmas. The League holds lifetime memberships with the National Council of Negro Women and the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA. In 1980, the Ellen V. Johns Britain Award was established in honor of the founder of the Julia West Hamilton League, Inc. This award is presented for outstanding and dedicated services to a member of longstanding.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this August body join me in special tribute to the gentle ladies of The Julia West Hamilton League, Inc. whose motto, "THE ONLY GIFT IS A PORTION OF THYSELF" and good works, on the occasion of their 60th anniversary, are worthy to be praised.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 1998

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I missed one vote on H.R. 856, The United States-Puerto Rico Political Status Act, because I was attending the funeral of former Congressman Garner Shriver in Wichita Kansas. Had I been present I would have voted yes on rollcall No. 27.

I would request that my statement be placed in the appropriate location in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 1998

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I discovered that without explanation, my vote was not recorded on Roll Call vote number 22, the Federal Agency Compliance/Civil Rights amendment. I was present for this vote and voted Yea.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT
OF FRANK STRONA FROM THE
NEW HAVEN POLICE DEPARTMENT,
MARCH 4, 1998

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 1998

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Frank Strona, a devoted member of

the New Haven Police Department, who retired Saturday, February 28, 1998.

Providing for the protection and safety of our citizens from acts of violence is one of the fundamental duties of government. But government carries out this responsibility only through the work and dedication of people like Frank Strona. His extraordinary bravery and pride in carrying out his duties will serve as an example for police departments throughout Connecticut to strive towards.

Mr. Strona served in the New Haven Police Department for over thirty-five years. He is cherished as a friend and mentor to many junior officers, and many members of the community, including myself. His career began as a rookie cop. In a short time he became a motorcycle policeman, graduating from cruiser patrolman. He spent almost twenty of his thirty-five years as Dog Warden and Manager of the Mounted Police Regiment of the New Haven Police Department—keeping the regiment strong.

Second only to his loving family, Strona's distinguished career in public service has been the greatest source of pride in his life. This devotion and pride will be his lasting legacy. The members of the New Haven Police Department and the community of New Haven have all benefited from his unwavering commitment to the safety and security of our community. For this, we offer him our lasting gratitude and congratulations on his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH MEYER

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 1998

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a Northwest Indiana business pioneer and the founder of Bank Calumet, Joseph Meyer. Joseph was born in Wisconsin in 1878. As a youth, whenever he could, he traveled with his father who was a professional photographer. His father was particularly interested in photographing various aspects of nature and often took his son into fields and forests. The young Joseph soon learned a great deal about plants and nature in general. But this happy arrangement lasted only a few years because the father died when his son was not yet a teenager. As a result of the family's financial difficulties, Joseph was sent to an orphanage, where he received a technical-vocational education.

Upon graduation from high school, Joseph had to leave the orphanage. He went to Milwaukee where he lived with a grandmother, who provided room and board which enabled young Joseph to take a low paying job in the printing industry. He recognized that he needed practical experience before he could go out on his own.

Eventually, he felt he had enough experience, so with a small loan from his grandmother, he set up his own print shop in her basement. Slowly he accumulated enough savings to open his own print shop on East Water Street. He was a good printer, but not yet a good financial manager and he did not know how to locate a financial advisor. Moreover, Milwaukee was suffering from a recession at that time. Finally, he was out of money and had to close his shop. His first business venture, therefore, was a failure.

Joseph Meyer then moved to Chicago, where printers were in demand, and obtained a job with a large industrial printer until it was shut down by a long and violent strike. Next he took a job in the print department of The Hammond Times.

But the desire to have his own business was strong. By saving everything he could from his job at the paper and with a small bank loan, he was able to afford an old printing press which had to share space in his modest home with his wife and young family. Joseph soon heard about crooked gaming devices and learned how these machines were tampered with to cheat the public. So in 1908, he wrote a short book exposing this scheme and printed it himself—two pages at a time.

This literary effort was well received and very profitable. His initial thought was to expand his printing business, but he remembered his failed print shop back in Milwaukee. He realized that his next business would have to be guided by a plan and that he would need help with the financial side.

In thinking about his skills, he knew he had two strengths. He knew a lot about printing; after all, that's what he had been doing for several years. But he also knew a great deal about nature and plants. Over the years, he had built on the basic knowledge he had gained from those early field trips with his father. He became interested in the curative power of native plants and the advantages of natural substances as dietary supplements. For his life's work, he decided it made sense to combine both these talents—his knowledge of printing and his love of nature.

He grew and harvested plants in the vacant land around his Hammond house, on land that no one seemed to care about at the time. Marketing of these health foods and medical items would be through a catalog. Since he would print the catalog himself, his profit would be enhanced. He mobilized his eight children and taught them to distinguish the valuable plants from ordinary weeds and had them help in the harvesting.

His children were also put to work in the family dining room, assembly-line fashion, to fold and bind the catalog. Eventually, he was able to purchase fertile land to grow the plants he needed and in 1925 construct a handsome Tudor style building to process and manufacture his products. That building still stands among the Borman Expressway near Calumet Avenue. In a few years, this business, then and now known as the Indiana Botanic Gardens, grew larger and his catalog was sent first throughout the Midwest and later all over the country. Today, Indiana Botanic Gardens, which is now located in Hobart, continues to thrive under the direction of a Joseph Meyer descendant.

By the late 1920s and early 1930s, the country had slipped into a very severe economic downturn. Many businesses closed. But this time, Joe Meyer's business did not fail. In fact, the Botanic Gardens continued to expand. It turned out that the herb and health food business was largely recession proof. His direct-from-the-manufacturer mail order business provided products at a lower price than his competitors, and his home remedies were cheaper and more readily available than regular medical doctors.

But he did have one serious problem. The economic downturn was so severe that he couldn't find a sound yet convenient financial